

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 18, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Vice Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Patrick L. Painter

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Rep. Gowans was excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Moss moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Frank, Rep. Last, Rep. Shurtliff, and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

Sen. Dayton noted that Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who was going to report on NCLB (No Child Left Behind), was not able to attend the meeting. Rep. Dayton updated the Committee on NCLB and reviewed a legislative brief, "NCLB Reauthorization at Mid-Year, Chances for Passing New Law During 2007 Growing Dimmer."

Dr. Larry Shumway, Associate Superintendent, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), noted the odds of the NCLB Act being reauthorized in 2007 are no better than 50/50 and getting worse with each day that legislation is not introduced.

Dr. Shumway introduced Ms. Brenda Hales and recognized her new appointment as Associate Superintendent of Student Achievement and School Success.

2. Legislative Audit - A Review of the Public Education Costs of Undocumented Children

Ms. Janice Coleman, Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, distributed a copy of her slide presentation and reviewed a legislative audit report, "A Review of the Public Education Costs of Undocumented Children."

Ms. Pam Perlich, University of Utah, Senior Research Economist, responded to committee members' questions about the population of undocumented workers and their children.

MOTION: Rep. Urquhart moved to direct staff, with the advice of legislative leadership from both parties, to write a letter to the U.S. Department of Education, INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service), and Utah's congressional delegation requesting reimbursement of the public education costs of undocumented children. The motion passed with Sen. Jones, Rep. Moss, and Rep. Wheatley voting in opposition.

3. Public School Extracurricular Activities - Participation by Charter School, Home School, and Private School Students

Sen. Madsen distributed and gave an overview of legislation introduced in the 2007 General Session, S.B. 81, "Home School and Extracurricular Activity Amendments." He noted the legislation addressed eligibility requirements for home school and private school students to participate in extracurricular activities at a public school. He discussed a proposal that would address this issue, as well as charter school students' eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities at public schools.

Mr. Mike Westover, Principal, Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy, distributed and reviewed the handout, "Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy," that addressed Sen. Madsen's proposal. He indicated that the board of directors and headmaster of Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy recommended that charter school students be allowed to participate in sports or activities at their boundary high schools when the sports or activities are unavailable at the charter high school.

Mr. Scott Montrose, student, expressed concern with transferring from Lone Peak High School to Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy and not being eligible to try out for the golf team at Lone Peak High School.

Mr. Aaron Olsen, student, expressed concern with transferring from Copper Hills High School to Paradigm High School and not being eligible to be on the swim team at Copper Hills High School.

Ms. Christy Olsen, mother to Mr. Olsen, expressed concern with Jordan School District not allowing her son to participate on the swim team after transferring to Paradigm High School and spoke in support of the proposal.

Mr. Evan Exell, Director, Utah High School Activities Association, indicated that proposals on allowing charter school students to participate in extracurricular activities at other schools will be considered by the Association's board at its next meeting in August.

Chair Dayton suggested bringing this issue back for discussion at a future meeting.

4. Reducing Teacher Attrition

Mr. Stephen Kroes, President, Utah Foundation, noted that the Utah Foundation has released a report analyzing policy options for reducing teacher attrition. He distributed and gave an overview of the report, "Teacher Attrition, Why Do Teachers Stop Teaching in Utah and What Policies Will Encourage Them to Stay."

5. High School Exit Exams and Diploma Requirements

Ms. Steffen distributed a copy of her slide presentation, "High School Exit Exams." She explained that several bills have been introduced in the past two years to modify requirements for earning a high school diploma in Utah. She presented information on other states' requirements to pass a high school exit exam as a condition of earning a diploma.

6. Draft Legislation - Creation of New School District Amendments

Rep. John Dougall and Sen. Carlene Walker distributed and reviewed draft legislation, "Creation of New School District Amendments."

Rep. Dougall distributed written comments on splitting Jordan School District, "Alpine School District - Re: Provision of Educational Services to Residents in SunCrest" and "Letter to Rep. Dougall from Mr. Layne Long, Draper City Manager."

Ms. DeLaina Tonks, resident of SunCrest, distributed and reviewed a handout, "Fact Sheet - New School District Creation Amendments - July 18, 2007 SunCrest Information."

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to encourage the governor and legislative leadership to work together on a legislative special session addressing amendments to state law on the creation of new school districts and school building equalization. The motion passed with Sen. Romero voting in opposition.

Mr. Jason Koop, resident of SunCrest, stated he volunteers in the classroom with his children and spoke against the school district split which would add extra travel time to the Sandy area to do volunteer work.

Ms. Jen Christensen, resident of SunCrest, spoke against the school district split and expressed concern with taking her children out of the current schools they are attending.

Ms. Tracy Bennett, Draper resident, said it is best for children to attend neighborhood schools, and she wants her children to stay in the Alpine School District.

Mr. Greg Schulz, representative of the Magna, Kearns, Copperton, and White City community councils, noted the councils' concern was not with the split of school districts but with the issue of funding equalization.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.